

House File 302 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 302

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act renaming the commission and office on the status of
2 African Americans to include Africans.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 7E.5, subsection 1, paragraph s, Code
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 s. The department of human rights, created in section
4 216A.1, which has primary responsibility for services relating
5 to Latino persons, women, persons with disabilities, community
6 action agencies, criminal and juvenile justice planning,
7 Africans and African Americans, deaf and hard-of-hearing
8 persons, persons of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage, and
9 Native Americans.

10 Sec. 2. Section 216A.1, subsection 1, paragraph a,
11 subparagraph (5), Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

12 (5) Office on the status of Africans and African Americans.

13 Sec. 3. Section 216A.3, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
14 2015, is amended to read as follows:

15 a. The voting members shall consist of nine voting members
16 selected by each of the permanent commissions within the
17 department, and two voting members, appointed by the governor.
18 For purposes of this paragraph "a", "*permanent commissions*"
19 means the commission of Latino affairs, commission on the
20 status of women, commission of persons with disabilities,
21 commission on community action agencies, commission of deaf
22 services, criminal and juvenile justice planning advisory
23 council, commission on the status of Africans and African
24 Americans, commission of Asian and Pacific Islander affairs,
25 and commission of Native American affairs. The term of office
26 for voting members is four years.

27 Sec. 4. Section 216A.4, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended
28 to read as follows:

29 4. "*Underrepresented*" means the historical marginalization
30 of populations or groups in the United States and Iowa,
31 including but not limited to Africans and African Americans,
32 Asian and Pacific Islanders, persons who are deaf or hard of
33 hearing, persons with disabilities, Latinos, Native Americans,
34 women, persons who have low socioeconomic status, at-risk
35 youth, and adults or juveniles with a criminal history.

1 Sec. 5. Section 216A.132, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 **b.** The departments of human services, corrections, and
4 public safety, the office on the status of Africans and African
5 Americans, the department of public health, the chairperson of
6 the board of parole, the attorney general, the state public
7 defender, and the governor's office of drug control policy
8 shall each designate a person to serve on the council.

9 Sec. 6. Section 216A.141, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2015,
10 are amended to read as follows:

11 1. "*Commission*" means the commission on the status of
12 Africans and African Americans.

13 2. "*Office*" means the office on the status of Africans and
14 African Americans of the department of human rights.

15 Sec. 7. Section 216A.142, subsection 1, Code 2015, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 1. The commission on the status of Africans and African
18 Americans is established and shall consist of seven members
19 appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the
20 senate. All members shall reside in Iowa. At least five
21 members shall be individuals who are African or African
22 American.

23 Sec. 8. Section 216A.143, subsection 1, Code 2015, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 1. Study the opportunities for and changing needs of the
26 African and African American ~~community~~ communities in this
27 state.

28 Sec. 9. Section 216A.146, Code 2015, is amended to read as
29 follows:

30 **216A.146 Office on the status of Africans and African**
31 **Americans.**

32 The office on the status of Africans and African Americans is
33 established and shall do the following:

34 1. Serve as the central permanent agency to advocate for
35 Africans and African Americans.

2. Coordinate and cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the needs of Africans and African Americans in participating fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the state, and provide direct assistance to individuals who request it.

6 3. Develop, coordinate, and assist other public or private
7 organizations which serve Africans and African Americans.

8 4. Serve as an information clearinghouse on programs and
9 agencies operating to assist Africans and African Americans.

10	EXPLANATION
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11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill renames the commission and office on the status of
14 African Americans to the commission and office on the status
15 of Africans and African Americans. The bill provides that the
16 duties of the commission, its office, and the department of
17 human rights includes Africans as well as African Americans.